

# THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The People's Rights—A Representative Democracy—The Union and the Constitution Without Any Infractions.

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THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE  
Woodstock, Vermont.

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

WOODSTOCK NEWS

FOR A SINGLE SESSION

Student Argues Ably for a Change at W. H. S.

In the managing of school or any other affairs, a great number of questions are sure to come up before the authorities as well as the public. The proposition now confronting the school committee is in regard to the adoption of the single session. This has already been adopted in practically all Massachusetts schools. Should not Woodstock at least try this scheme?

Let us see what it would mean. First, it would bring about a more compact schedule and shorter intermission. The outline for this change would necessarily require school to open at half past eight instead of nine. This seems to be the most convenient hour, as it enables students coming on the morning train to reach the building with plenty of time. Fifteen minutes as at present for opening exercises, brings the first period at eight forty-five, leaving about forty-five minutes each for the first four recitations. This brings the noon lunch of about half an hour, which seems all that would be required, at eleven thirty-five. Beginning again at twelve, with the last two periods of forty-five each, the school closes at one thirty.

The afternoon need not be entirely wasted, for a special session could be given for delinquents, those wishing to make up lost work, to receive aid, or to stay for any other reasons. In comparing this schedule with the one now employed, it may be seen that practically no time is lost in the present plan there are four hours and fifty minutes for recitations. In the proposed plan there are four hours and fifteen minutes. At present there are from five to ten minutes lost at recess in "settling down," and the same time, which could be cut down, is lost at noon. It is seen that the old method contains only about fifteen minutes more, not taking in account the vast amount of time that could be gained in the special session over the "after school" method.

Let us now look at the make up of W. H. S. In the high school, including the post-graduate and ninth grade classes, which are considered as parts of school, there are 144 pupils enrolled. Of these, more than 65 per cent, or to be accurate, 90, come from outside the village limits. What does this mean? It means that the majority drive and carry dinners, which are easily eaten in half an hour. How is the rest of the noon spent? Some perhaps, ten to twelve at the most, take advantage of the study room, but more often for a general picnic than to study. The rest either spend their time in some sports or in the reading room. Still others take to loafing on the street and street corners. Not only those bringing their dinners spend their time in these ways, but those living in the village are sure to return from home and join their comrades.

In comparing the advantages with the disadvantages in a single session, those most affected by it may be put in three divisions: Namely, the teacher, students and those connected with athletics.

As far as the teachers are concerned the disadvantages are practically nothing. Their one great advantage lies in the special session in the afternoon, which enables them to spend more time with the pupils and more time in the preparation of the next day's work.

It is not always convenient for the teachers to stay after school to help pupils, or spend time in school work. With the afternoon session there is plenty of time for helping backward students, those wishing to go more deeply into a subject, or even more time at the library in reference work, which is now impossible.

Now let us consider the student body. The cry will immediately be raised: How about the dinner hour being broken up, and the earlier starting for those living outside the village? It is true the noon hour will be changed to some extent, but as stated before, the majority carry dinners and seem to live happily, and do as good work in school. If the majority can live, why can not the minority compromise a little and bring a lunch? In fact, it is said that people are eating twice the amount of food required by them. As for the earlier starting, it would affect only those living outside the village, and this would cause no hardship.

The advantages to the pupils are much greater than those to the teacher. The students are even more able to take advantage of the special session and profit by it than the instructors. The students also have the benefit of the compactness of the schedule, that is, in keeping their mind on the work. Next they are enabled to reach home at an earlier hour, so as to do whatever duties are required of them or prepare their lessons for the following day by daylight, instead of having to do this in the evening.

Next let us consider this proposition as applied to athletics, which hold a prominent position in any high school, and ought to be encouraged. In order to participate in, or make any athletic team, preparation is necessary. One of the many rules given out to athletes is not to practice directly after eating, whether it be football or trackwork. Another rule is to wear the special suits for the games while trying out. At present the only time to train is at noon, which is against the rule. This hour does not give time to change suits, or after school. It seems that the noon hour is no time for this, and after school is sometimes too late as the players have to hurry home. With the single session arrangement there is plenty of time in the afternoon for the players to practice so as to make the teams what they should be.

In conclusion it is seen that practically all the points are in favor of this plan. We will not stop to make a definite summary. It is unnecessary. Anyone with the faculty of looking ahead or into the subject can easily see on which side the question will weigh the most. If Massachusetts schools, which are among the best in New England, adopt this plan and benefit by it, why shouldn't Woodstock.

R. B. Spaulding,  
W. H. S. '10

## Howe's Pictures

Howe's moving pictures took the audience at Music hall Tuesday evening on an interesting "\$500 excursion"—to foreign parts and to various places on American soil. The pictures were by far the best ever shown here, and the stay-at-home tourists were shown many things not down in the guide books—a runaway train, logging scenes in the Italian Alps, a fishing boat in the North Sea, and the "war game," which included scenes at West Point, and some sensational target shooting with big guns.

The noise-makers behind the scenes overdid their business a little as usual, base drums and blank cartridges making more racket and smoke than the fall of Fort Arthur.

## Big Campfire at Bethel

At a meeting of Daniel Lillie Post No. 61, G. A. R. of Bethel, it was voted to invite the Rochester Post and the Gaysville post with their wives, to attend the campfire to be held by that post, February 22.

It was voted that a banquet be provided for the invited guests and speakers.

The shooting of game by rural mail carriers, while officially employed on the service of routes, or the carrying of guns for that purpose, has been prohibited by the postoffice department. Complaints were received that delay in the delivery and collection of mails was caused at certain places by this practice.

## HARTLAND.

W. H. Giles lost his faithful horse last Saturday. Robin has served his master the last five years on the R. F. D. route, and will be greatly missed by the patrons.

Mrs. H. DeWolfe of Lebanon, N. H., was a guest of her sister, Mrs. H. A. Walker, the current week.

Mrs. M. E. P. Lansing returned from South Royalton last Friday and is assisting in the postoffice a few hours each day.

Miss Mae Porter returned from the hospital January 29, and is now with her mother in Taftville.

The funeral of the late Paschal S. Barrell was held at the home of his brother, J. F. Barrell, Wednesday, Feb. 2nd, at one o'clock. Rev. H. A. Miles officiated, W. R. Sturtevant, Dr. H. B. Ketchum, Miss Sturtevant and Mrs. John P. Webster rendered several appropriate musical selections. Frank Barrell, Fred Barbour, Arthur Davis and David Evans, nephews of the deceased, acted as bearers. Burial in the Hartland cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Walker were called to White River Junction last Thursday by the sudden death of Mrs. Walker's father, Charles L. Waterman.

Henry Walker returned to his home in Mesopotamia, Ohio, Wednesday.

## Mrs. L. I. Walker

Mrs. Minnie S. Pinney, wife of Leslie I. Walker, passed away at 12.40 a. m., Saturday, Feb. 5, after a short illness of peritonitis, aged 55 years.

Mrs. Walker was born in Plymouth, the daughter of the late Henry F. and Maria Pinney, July 20, 1854. She attended school in Plymouth, then entered Woodstock High school, making her home while in Woodstock with her uncle, Benton H. Pinney. After leaving Woodstock, Mrs. Walker taught school in Plymouth until 1879, when she was united in marriage with Leslie I. Walker, of Woodstock. The young people began housekeeping on a farm in Plymouth, living there until Mr. Walker opened a store in the same town, and continuing there until he bought the mercantile business of Fred J. Reed in Hartland in the autumn of 1902.

Three children came to brighten their home—Henry, a merchant in Mesopotamia, Ohio; Clayton, a printer in Bellows Falls; Verna Louise, who died several years ago. Mrs. Walker leaves a husband, two sons, an aged mother, Mrs. Maria Pinney in Woodstock, three sisters, Mrs. Evaline Parker of Clarendon, Mrs. Inez Watkins of Woodstock, Mrs. A. O. Messer of Plymouth, besides many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Since Mr. and Mrs. Walker came to Hartland seven years ago, Mrs. Walker has been interested in every social work of the Congregational, Universalist and Methodist churches.

Mrs. Walker was a member of the Hartland whist club, Hartland Nature club, Progressive Grange, and was very much interested in the public library. While living in Plymouth she became affiliated with the Eastern Star lodge of Ludlow.

Mrs. Walker was a true and loyal wife, a devoted daughter and sister, a kind and thoughtful mother, a kind and generous friend. As a neighbor she was ever willing to lend her aid in every possible way and she will be greatly missed by all our townspeople. Prayers were said at the home by Rev. J. B. Reardon of Springfield at 9.15 a. m., Monday, followed by a funeral in the Universalist church at Hartland Four Corners, Rev. Mr. Reardon officiating. Progressive Grange performed impressive ceremonies. Three musical selections were sung by W. R. Sturtevant, Miss Florence H. Sturtevant, Mrs. John P. Webster and Dr. H. B. Ketchum. "Sometime We'll Understand," "Waiting, Only Waiting," and "Jesus Lover of my Soul."

The body reposed on a half-couch casket, surrounded by the beautiful flowers of which she was so fond. From Eastern Star lodge at Ludlow, a star composed of red roses and purple violets; a plume of carnations from the Hartland whist club, a wreath from the Universalist society, twenty-four carnations from

the Ladies' Benevolent society of the Congregational church; two hundred sweet peas from the Hartland Nature club and many beautiful flowers from relatives and friends. The bearers were Aubrey Curtis, Carl Lamb, Frank H. Martin and Frank E. Barrell, Philip Royce and Edward Giles. Burial at Plymouth Notch, beside her daughter, Verna Louise, who died many years ago.

## A WINNING PLATFORM

Island Pond Herald Speaks Words of Warm Praise for 'Head's' Platform.

Dr. John Abner Mead of Rutland, lieutenant governor of Vermont, announces his candidacy for governor in a straight-forward and manly style, says the Island Pond Herald.

His announcement, his platform, and his career are fully set forth in this week's issue. No matter how many republicans may differ in their estimates of the candidates named for this office, we believe all will concede his great executive ability. His business career amply demonstrates this. Turn to the first page and read it. He is thorough in everything he undertakes. This too is shown in the story of his life. And he is not lacking in legislative ability. Then look at his platform. He comes out squarely and says he is prepared to take his stand on matters of public import and that he has decided opinions in regard to public matters affecting the state's welfare. Briefly he says:

"I am in favor of progress in every avenue of the state, the best business methods in the administration of its affairs and equal opportunity to every citizen of the commonwealth."

His platform is announced in eleven brief paragraphs, each crisp, strong and easily understood. There is no rhetorical display, no obscuration of sense of sound—no masking of meaning behind a turgid and involved mass of verbiage; but in a word it is a model platform, to the point, and is self interpreting. It takes broad ground in an honest and frank manner. It makes the issues of the state campaign; for his opponents can find in it no omission of an enunciation on any point that is now being discussed by the press and the voters in behalf of a better Vermont.

This platform ought to win for him the office he aspires to, and we believe it will.—Adv.

## All Her Fault.

She hurried down the stairs to join her husband, who was waiting to go out with her to the party.

"Oh, Jack!" she cried. "Wait a moment. You—"

"I never saw anything like it!" exclaimed Jack impatiently. "You always forget something. You girls are enough to drive any patient man frantic."

"But, Jack, dear—"

"Oh, go upstairs and get what you want, and don't, for goodness' sake, keep me waiting any longer."

"But I haven't forgotten anything, dear. It's you!"

"Good gracious! What next, I wonder? I've been dressed and ready waiting for you this last half hour."

"Indeed!" she said frigidly.

"Then why is it you've got no necktie on?"

"Goodness!" he ejaculated. "Why couldn't you tell me that before, instead of staring at me and saying nothing?"—Exchange.

## Thackeray as a Hero.

No man ever enjoyed his fame more than Thackeray. But no man's head was ever less turned than his. The story is told that Charlotte Bronte, sitting opposite to him at dinner, regarded him for a long time as a hero. "And," said Thackeray, "I had the miserable humiliation of seeing her ideal of me disappear as everything went into my mouth and nothing came out of it, until at last, as I took my fifth potato, she leaned across, with clasped hands and beautiful eyes, and breathed imploringly: 'Oh, Mr. Thackeray! Don't!' This is one of those stories which may not be true, but ought to be. It shows Thackeray in his typical attitude to life and to himself. He enjoyed the situation and criticised it implicitly as he enjoyed it. A hero perhaps—but there were the five potatoes.—London Saturday Review.

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## WILD ANIMALS.

Man is Steadily and Surely Working Their Extinction.

Sir Ray Lankester writes of the enormous number of living creatures which man has destroyed since he first appeared on earth: "Even in prehistoric times it is probable that man by hunting the mammoth—the great hairy elephant—assisted in its extinction if he did not actually bring it about. At a remote prehistoric period the horses of various kinds which abounded in North and South America rapidly and suddenly became extinct. It has been suggested, with some show of probability, that a previously unknown epidemic disease, due to a parasitic organism—such as those which we now see ravaging the herds of South Africa—found its way to the American continent. And it is quite possible that this was brought from the other hemisphere by the first men who crossed the Pacific and populated North America."

"To come to matters of certainty and not of speculation, we know that man by clearing the land as well as by actively hunting and killing it made an end of the great wild ox of Europe, the aurochs, or urus, of Caesar, the last of which was killed near Warsaw in 1627. He similarly destroyed the bison, first in Europe and then (in our own days) in North America. A few hundred, carefully guarded, are all that remain in the two continents. He has very nearly made an end of the elk in Europe and will soon do so completely in America. The wolf and the beaver were destroyed in these British islands about 400 years ago. They are rapidly disappearing from France and will soon be exterminated in Scandinavia and Russia and in Canada."

"At a remote prehistoric period the bear was exterminated by man in Britain and the lion driven from the whole of Europe, except Macedonia, where it still flourished in the days of the ancient Greeks. It was common in Asia Minor a few centuries ago. The giraffe and the elephant have departed from South Africa before the encroachments of civilized man. The day is not distant when they will cease to exist in the wild state in any part of Africa. And with them are vanishing many splendid antelope."

"Even our 'nearest and dearest' relatives in the animal world, the gorilla, the chimpanzee and the orang, are doomed. Now that man has learned to defy malaria and other fevers, the tropical forest will be occupied by the greedy civilized horde of humanity, and there will be no room for the most interesting and wonderful of all animals, the man-like apes, unless (as we may hope in their case, at any rate) such living monuments of human history are made sacred and treated with greater care than are our ancient monuments in stone."—Chicago News.

## Thackeray on Tennyson.

Here is an offhand comment made on Tennyson by Thackeray in a letter to Mrs. Procter. Thackeray, it will be remembered, knew Tennyson from the early undergraduate days at Cambridge. Indeed Thackeray's verses "Timbuctoo" were written in good natured parody of Tennyson's prize poem, "Alfred Tennyson," wrote Thackeray, "if he can't make you like him will make you admire him. He seems to me to have the cachet of a great man. His conversation is often delightful, I think, full of breadth, manliness and humor. He reads all sorts of things, swallows them and digests them like a great poetical boar constrictor as he is. Perhaps it is Alfred Tennyson's great big yellow face and growling voice that have made an impression on me. Manliness and simplicity go a great way with me, I fancy."—Bookman.

## Sea Superstitions.

One of the oldest sea superstitions has been connected with the flying of birds. If the birds flew high, that signified good weather. If they skimmed the water, that meant bad weather. There is gradually spreading among the seamen a superstition that if any animal is aboard the vessel bad weather may be deferred—even if the birds are flying close to the water—if the head of the animal is pointed aft and is held in that direction for some time.

## A Wonderful Help.

"Doctor, I called to thank you for your valuable medicine," said the young man. "So it helped you, did it? I am very glad," said the doctor, smiling. "Indeed it helped me wonderfully," was the assuring reply. "How many bottles did you find it necessary to take?" "Oh, I didn't take any of it. I induced my uncle to take one bottle, and I am his sole heir."—Ladies' Home Journal.

## LAST CALL

The forms of the next TELEPHONE DIRECTORY close positively on

FEBRUARY 19, 1910

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## COUNTY FINANCES.

The undersigned, pursuant to Sec. 2890 of the Vermont Statutes, have examined the books and vouchers of the County Clerk and Treasurer for the year ending Nov. 30th 1909, and submit the following report:

Nov. 30, 1909, cash in hands of Treasurer	\$ 70.52
Received for county tax	1,114.12
Peddler's licenses	163.17
Evergreen licenses	100.00
Village share of electric light	35.00
	\$1,472.82

The Treasurer has paid out by order, \$1,345.61. Leaving a balance of cash in hands of treasurer, 127.21.

C. H. MAXHAM, } County Judges.  
M. S. BUCK.

The Rev. John B. Reardon, pastor of the Universalist church in Springfield, has accepted the office of president of the agricultural society.

## Sudden Death of Eccentric Character

Charles H. Waterman, a well known and somewhat eccentric character of White River Junction, was found dead last week Friday morning on the floor of the kitchen of the house where he lived. It is supposed that, feeling ill, he had come from his room for some remedy and was overtaken by death while there. He was about 60 years old. Death resulted from natural causes. He leaves a daughter, Mrs. Grace Walker, and a sister, Mrs. Horace T. Sargent, of White River Junction.